

the tax cuts go to the wealthy; the fact that the middle-income tax cuts proposed by the Vice President are very simple and easy to use and desperately needed by the American people—the Vice President will score points.

More importantly, he will win the election on that basis, and America will finally spend our surplus on the priorities we need and return taxes to the middle class who need them more than anybody else. Our country will continue the prosperity that, praise God, we have seen in the last 8 years.

Mr. President, these are not fuzzy Washington numbers. These are facts. They are facts that show that the Vice President is far more in touch with what the average American wants and needs than is Governor Bush.

I don't believe in class warfare. I respect people who have made a lot of money. That is the American dream. I hope my children will.

But when you do deep tax cuts, who should get it when you only have a limited amount? When you have a surplus, why should it be squandered? Governor Bush, these are not fuzzy numbers but hard, cold facts that help the American people.

I yield back my time and yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada is recognized.

#### APPLAUDING SENATOR SCHUMER

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I appreciate very much the statement of the Senator from New York. New York is the financial capital of the world, and the Senator from New York, having long represented that State in the House of Representatives, has certainly hit the ground running here in the Senate. We depend on the Senator from New York on many occasions for financial information and advice due to the fact that he comes from the financial capital of the world. His very vivid description of the debate last night, in financial terms and what the tax situation is from both candidates, was welcome. I congratulate and applaud the Senator for his very lucid statement.

Mr. SCHUMER. I thank my friend, who is a great leader for all of us. He is always giving us younger Members time to make our statements on the floor, in addition to all the other nice things he does.

#### ALASKA PRODUCTION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I thought it was appropriate that we revisit what the junior Senator from Alaska said today. He has come to the floor on many occasions and said, as I have stated earlier, the same thing. He does it with great passion, and I appreciate how strongly he feels about it. I think the time has come that we don't let his statements go without giving the facts from the other side. What are some of those facts? Let's talk about production of oil in Alaska.

In 1999, the Clinton-Gore administration offered tracts on nearly 4 million acres of land in the national petroleum reserve in Alaska, to the west of Prudhoe Bay, for oil and gas leasing.

Oil companies with winning bids will pay—

This is a staggering figure, but it is to show that we in this administration have had an energy policy, as we all know.

Oil companies with winning bids will pay \$104,635,728 for leases in the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska. A total of 425 tracts on approximately 3.9 million acres were offered by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management in today's lease sale, the first such sale for the reserve since 1984.

It is important we recognize that there is an energy policy and, as indicated, this is the first sale for the reserve since 1984.

Six oil companies submitted 174 bids on 133 tracts.

The oil industry should explore and develop the Alaskan Petroleum Reserve before there is any suggestion of opening the sensitive lands of the wildlife refuge to development. We acknowledge that, and that is why they are paying \$105 million to do that. They should do that before there is even a suggestion of opening the sensitive lands of the ANWR to develop. ANWR doesn't need to be developed. To even suggest doing it before we fully explore the petroleum reserve in Alaska indicates that we are doing it for reasons other than petroleum production.

In 1998, the U.S. Geological Survey released a mean estimate of 2.4 billion barrels of economically recoverable oil in the Arctic Refuge at \$18 a barrel market price in 1996 dollars. Such a discovery would never meet more than a small part of our oil needs at any given time. The U.S. consumes about 19 million barrels of oil daily or almost 7 billion barrels annually . . .

So using these numbers for a couple of years, you could drill and it would be gone, and you would damage, to say the least, this beautiful part of the world.

The U.S. Geological Survey indicates that the mean estimate of economically recoverable reserves assumes an oil price of \$18, as I have indicated. We know the price of oil is almost double that today. Even at \$20 a barrel, the mean estimate increases to 3.2 billion barrels. This information comes from Dr. Thomas Casadevall, the Acting Director of the U.S. Geological Survey.

Production of oil in the United States peaked in 1970. You can see that on this chart. That was when the United States produced about 9.6 million barrels of oil every day. Production in Alaska has also been on a continual decline since 1988. It is very clear that the production of oil in Alaska has been going downhill since 1988, when it peaked at 2 million barrels of oil a day.

Domestic gas and oil drilling activity decreased nearly 17 percent during 1992, the last year of the Bush administration, and was at the lowest level since

1942. So I think we should understand that the Senator from Alaska—if he has to complain about energy policy—should go back to the Bush administration. That is when we bottomed out, so to speak.

Let's talk about what has gone on since 1992 when this administration began a concerted effort to increase the production of oil. Under the leadership of the Clinton-Gore administration, natural gas production on Federal lands onshore and oil production offshore is increasing. Natural gas production on Federal onshore lands has increased nearly 60 percent during this administration. Let me repeat that. Natural gas production on Federal onshore lands has increased nearly 60 percent since 1992. Oil production on Federal lands is down. But the gas statistics belie the argument that the administration has shut down the public lands to oil and gas development. This source comes from testimony given before the Energy and Natural Resources Committee in July of this year.

The Gulf of Mexico has become one of the hottest places in the world for exploration, especially since this administration supported incentives for deep-water development going into effect in 1995. Between 1992 and 1999, oil production offshore has increased 62 percent.

So it hardly seems to me that this is an administration without an energy policy, when we have determined that natural gas production during this administration on Federal onshore lands has increased about 60 percent and we have also determined that during this administration oil production offshore has increased 62 percent. Natural gas production in deep waters has increased 80 percent in just the past 2 years. These increases are in areas of the Gulf of Mexico, where the United States actively produces oil and gas.

So the point I am making is that we have my friend, the Senator from Alaska, coming to the floor and continually saying we don't have an energy policy. These figures belie that. We have an increase in Federal onshore lands by 60 percent; oil production offshore, 62 percent; and just in the last 2 years, gas production in deep waters increased 80 percent. Why? Because of actions taken by the Clinton-Gore administration.

The deep water in the Gulf of Mexico has emerged as a world-class oil and gas province in the last 4 years. That is as a result of work done by this administration. This historic change, after 53 years of production in the Gulf of Mexico, has been driven by several major factors, all coalescing during this administration. Truly, the deep water will drive the new millennium, no question about that.

I think it is important to note that we are all concerned about the fact that we are importing more oil than we should. Look at this chart. Oil importation went up in the mid 1970s, and during the gas crunch, because of policies taken by the Federal Government with tax credits and other things for